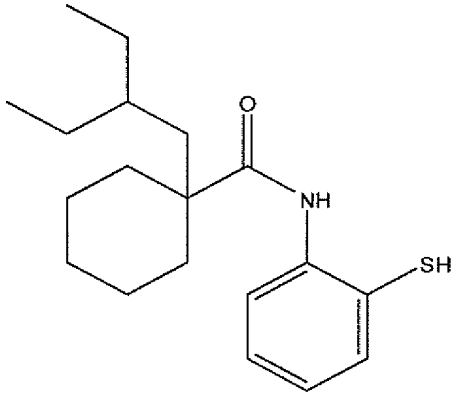
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

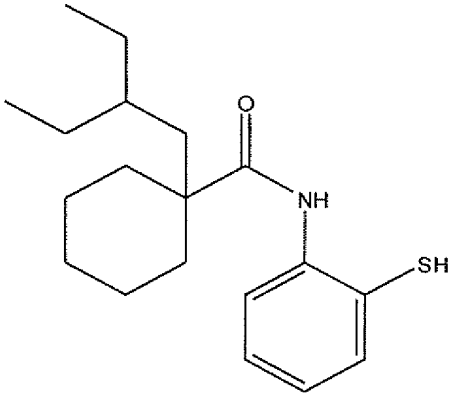
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-18. (Canceled)

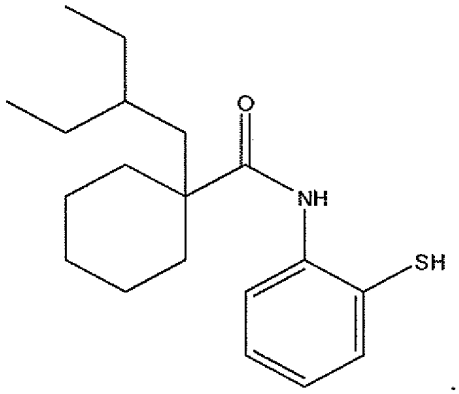
19. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of (a)



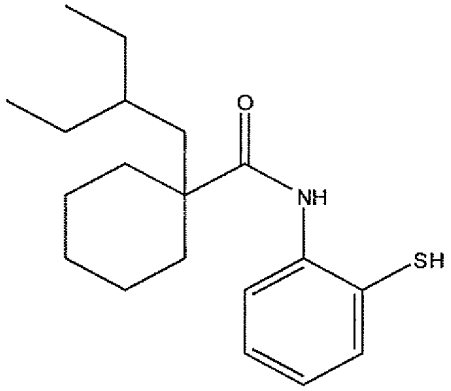
and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~, hydrates, and solvates~~ of



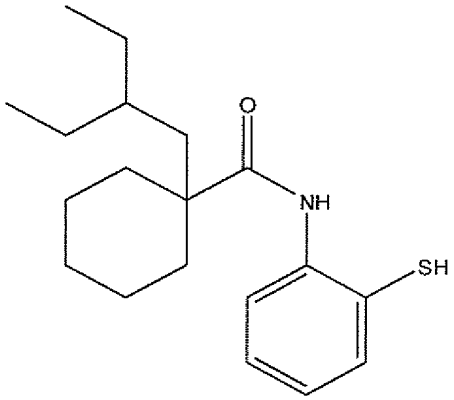
20. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 19, wherein the compound is



21. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising (i) a compound selected from the group consisting of (a)

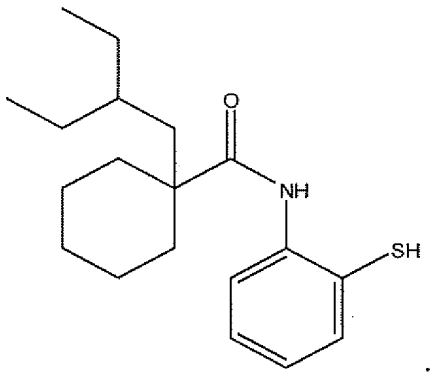


and (b) pharmaceutically acceptable salts~~, hydrates, and solvates~~ of



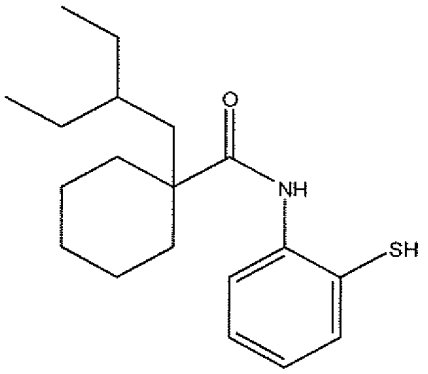
and (ii) a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 21, wherein the compound is



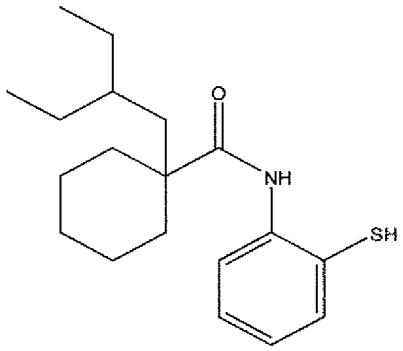
23.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) activity in a patient, which method comprises providing



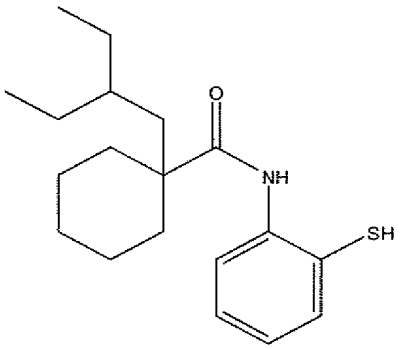
in vivo, whereby CETP activity is inhibited in the patient.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of increasing high density lipoprotein (HDL) in a patient, which method comprises providing



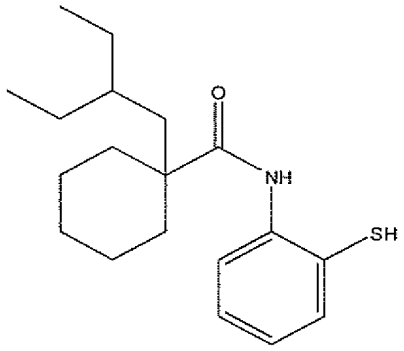
in vivo, whereby HDL is increased in the patient.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or preventing atherosclerosis in a patient, which method comprises providing



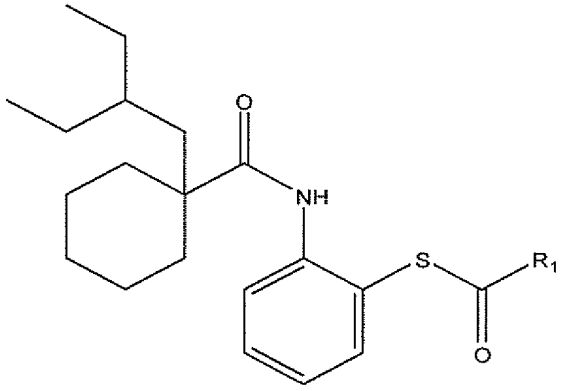
in vivo, whereby atherosclerosis is treated or prevented in the patient.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or preventing hyperlipidemia in a patient, which method comprises providing



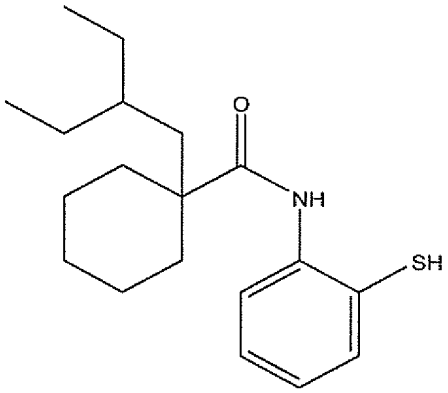
in vivo, whereby hyperlipidemia is treated or prevented in the patient.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R_1 is C_{1-10} alkyl, wherein the method comprises reacting



with an acid halide of formula (2)

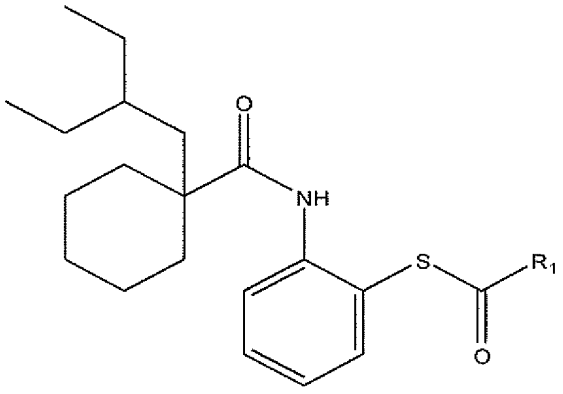
$$R_1C(O)X \qquad (2)$$

in the presence of a base, wherein R_1 is as described above and X is Cl, Br, or I.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent, water, or a mixture thereof.

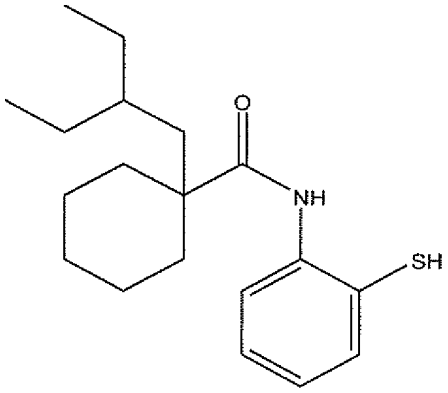
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein R_1 is $-CH(CH_3)_2$.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R_1 is C_{1-10} alkyl, wherein the method comprises reacting



with an organic acid of formula (3)

$$R_1C(O)YH \qquad (3)$$

in the presence of a coupling agent, wherein R_1 is as described above and Y is O or S.

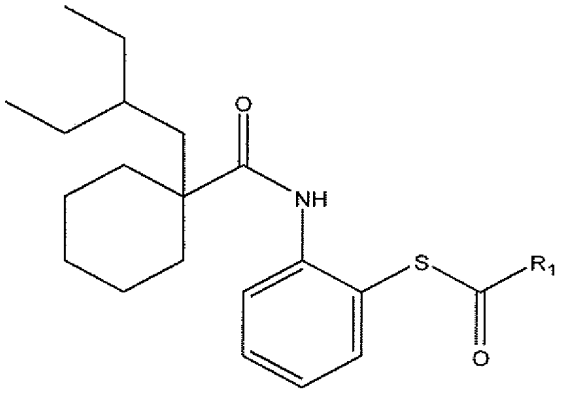
39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an activating agent.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of a base.

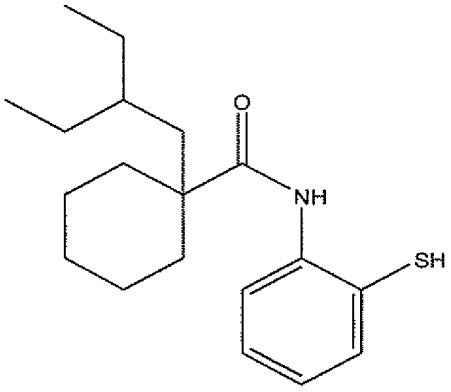
42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein R_1 is $-CH(CH_3)_2$.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a compound of formula (1)



(1)

wherein R_1 is C_{1-10} alkyl, wherein the method comprises reacting



with a carboxylic acid of formula (4)

$$R_1CO_2H \qquad (4)$$

in the presence of a base and ethyl chlorocarbonate, wherein R_1 is as described above.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of an organic solvent.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein R_1 is $-CH(CH_3)_2$.